Secta. II-27—100,006—21-5-52.

Finance (1954) Department.

1/S. SERIES.

G.O. No. 987
987

Dated

[Despatch Abstract.]

Travelling Allowance Rules of Hon'ble Ministers - Suggestions of the Accountant-General for economy in expenditure on Travelling Allowances - Papers recorded.

Copy of D.O. No. HA-2 of 48-49/4 (Confidential) dated 8th September 1948 from Sri. S.A. Vaneswar, Accountant-General, Madras to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

I have revived the Higher Audit Section of my office. On a general review of the travelling allowance bills of the Hon'ble Ministers for some months, I find that some journeys at least made by them were overlapping and may possibly be avoided, if they are fitted into a regular programme of tour of inspection. The desirability, therefore, of drawing up such a programme in advance to cover tours to neighbouring stations or districts as far as possible to avoid overlapping and piecemeal journeys, except of course for urgent and unforeseen visits, may with advantage be considered by Government.

It is also observed that extensive tours are sometimes made by road including places connected by Rail and full mileage claimed therefor. The advisability of having a sliding scale of rates of mileage in such cases, as contemplated in G.O. No. 1, Finance, dated the 3rd January 1948, may be considered by Government in the interests of economy, so as to ensure that road journeys are made only when absolutely necessary in the public interest, e.g. inspections en route etc.

The almostmonthly journeys made by some Hon'ble Ministers to their or the same districts and back noticed in some cases may also be obviated, if a regular programme of inspection is made out, as suggested inparagraph 1 above.

I shall be glad to know how for my suggestions made in the interests of economy have been found acceptable.

...

HON'BLE MINISTER (FINANCE) MINUTES.

The Accountant-General obviously puts the Ministers on a par with departmental heads. Inspection is primarily the duty of the officers, but Ministers have to be in touch with public opinion, explain policies of Government and accept political engagements like opening of Conferences, presiding over Conferences, opening of Schools, Bridges, etc. When they go to a district for some such purpose they naturally see a number of officials and non-officials and learn from them the difficulties and conditions of the district at first hand and take that opportunity of explaining Government measures. So they cannot have a regular programme of inspection of visits alone, to districts avoiding overlapping. The purpose of Ministers' visit to districts is altogether different from that of the Heads of Departments and I am sorry to find that the Accountant-General has missed this essential difference.

With regard to sliding scale of road mileage, here again the Accountant General has not appreciated the fact that Ministers sometimes resort to car journeys in preference to railway journeys. Apart from the fact that it saves valuable time, it enables them to go into the interiors. Many times Ministers won't get suitable transport in districts and they will be obliged to travel by

jeeps which is not desirable or they will be put into some old rickety cars which again in is dangerous. In U.P. the Ministers invariably travel by road accompanied by station wagons supplied by the Government and run at Government expense for luggage, staff, etc. The entire maintenance charge of the Ministers' cars is also borne by the Government in U.P. Having regard to the conditions in the districts it is not unreasonable if occasionally Ministers take their cars so that they can be self-dependent with regard to their transport.

A summary of my minute may be communicated to the Accountant-General. Accountant-General's letter with my minute may be circulated to all Hon'ble Ministers.

B. Gopala Reddi,
25.9.48.

Draft to Accountant-General may issue.

'A' above also may be done.

B.G.R.
30.9.

O.P.R.
14.10.

Issue and circulate copies as ordered at 'A' above.

T.N.S. Raghavan,
Secretary to Government.

To

Personal Clerks to all Hon'ble Ministers.

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Copy of D.O. No. 83708/CSR-3, dated 16.10.1948 from the Secretary to Government, Finance Department, Madras to the Accountant-General, Madras.

Sub:- Travelling Allowance Rules of Hon'ble Ministers - Suggestions of the Accountant-General for economy in expenditure on travelling allowances.

Ref:- D.O. from the Accountant-General (Confidential) No. HA-2-2 c.f./48-49 dated 8.9.48.

With reference to your D.O. to Mr. Ramunni Menon cited, I am to point out that the tour programme of Hon'ble Ministers cannot be compared to inspection tours of Heads of Departments. Inspection is primarily the duty of the officers of Government but Hon'ble Ministers have to be in touch with public

opinion, explain the policities of the Government and accept political engagements like opening of and presiding over conferences, opening of schools, bridges, etc. When they go to a District for some such purpose, they naturally see a number of officials and non-officials and learn from them the difficulties and conditions in the district at first-hand and take that opportunity for explaining Government measures. In view of this essential difference in the nature and purpose of tours of Heads of Departments and Hon'ble Ministers and the fact that the latter can rarely be away from headquarters for along periods, it is not possible for Hon'ble Ministers to have a regular programme of tours arranged with a view to avoid overlapping.

2. As regards your suggestion that a sliding scale of road milage as contemplated in G.O. Ms. No. 1, Finance, dated 3.1.48, may be adopted in respect of tours of Hon'ble Ministers, I am to say that Hon'ble Ministers sometimes resort to car journeys in preference to journeys by rail for reasons explained below. Journeys by car enable Hon'ble Ministers to go into the interior villages and save valuable time. Suitable transport is not always available in all districts and without their cars, Hon'ble Ministrs will often be obliged to travel by jeeps or rickety cars (offered to them at the places visited) which is not desirable. I am also to point out that in the United Provinces, Hon'ble Ministers invariably travel by road accompanied by station wagons supplied by the Government and run at Government expense for luggage, staff, etc. and that the entire charges on account of the maintenance of Ministers' cars are also borne by the Government. Taking the conditions in the districts as they are, the Government consider that there is nothing unreasonable in Hon'ble Ministers occasionally taking their cars on tours, so that they could be self-dependent in regard to their transport requirements.

x x x
27.9.48.

T.N.R.
27.9.48.

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FINANCE (CSR) DEPARTMENT

The papers may now be recorded for facility of future reference.

x x x
20.10.1948.

G.O. Ms. No. 987, dated 20.10.48.

Travelling Allowance Rules of Hon'ble Ministers - Suggestions of the Accountant-General for economy in expenditure on travelling allowances - Papers recorded.

...

/True copy/

Superintendent,

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

G.S.